



The City of
OKLAHOMA CITY
Planning Department

Community Development Division
420 W. Main, Suite 920, Oklahoma City, OK 73102

SPECIAL NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY TO ADDRESS UNSHELTERED AND RURAL HOMELESSNESS 2022

I. Introduction:

On June 22, 2022, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released the Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness for the 2022 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program. This announcement is to notify all parties seeking funding of the requirements for this competition and should be read in full. A technical assistance/question & answer session will be held on **Friday August 26, 2022, at 10am** via Zoom. [Click here to join the meeting](#) or call in 346-248-7799, Phone Conference ID: 816 2303 5210. Attendance of this meeting is **mandatory** for any organization submitting an application. The type of projects requested and criteria that must be followed by each entity wishing to be considered for funding are outlined below.

II. General Information:

The purpose of this Special NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness (Special NOFO) is to target efforts to reduce unsheltered homelessness, particularly in communities with very high levels of unsheltered homelessness and homelessness in rural areas. Through this Special NOFO, HUD will award funding to communities to implement coordinated approaches -- grounded in Housing First and public health principles -- to reduce the prevalence of unsheltered homelessness, and improve services engagement, health outcomes, and housing stability among highly vulnerable unsheltered individuals and families. HUD expects applicant communities to partner with health and housing agencies to leverage mainstream housing and healthcare resources.

ALL project applicants are strongly advised to read the full text of the Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness before applying. If an applicant does not have access to the NOFO they may request a copy from the CoC lead.

a. Available Funding and Grant Terms: HUD has announced that up to \$4,719,278 is available for projects under the supplemental NOFO. Eligible project categories are Permanent Supportive Housing (PH-PSH), Rapid Re-Housing (PH-RRH), Joint Transitional/Rapid Re-Housing (TH-RRH), Supportive Services Only (SSO), and Dedicated HMIS projects. Full details on allowable project types are listed in section VI. of this notice.

Initial grant terms for all projects funded under the Supplemental NOFO will be 3 years.

As of the time of this notice HUD has not indicated if projects will be renewable after the initial 3 year contract period.

b. Project Ranking: All projects will be prioritized and ranked by the Continuum of Care Board based on their project application score. Unlike the annual CoC Competition, all projects will be ranked together, not separated into 2 tiers.

III. Eligible Applicants:

- Must be a registered 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization
- Must have a DUNS number and be registered with SAM –System for Award Management (previously CCR – Central Contractor Registry) and not be on the Excluded Parties List
- Must have experience in providing housing and supportive services to the homeless population

IV. Ineligible Activities:

Homeless prevention and emergency shelter activities are statutorily ineligible under the Continuum of Care program.

V. Type of Projects Being Requested:

Projects seeking CoC funds must meet all the following objectives related to housing and serving the City's homeless population:

- Help move homeless individuals, youth and families quickly from a place not meant for human habitation into permanent housing using a housing first approach and then remain in permanent housing.
- Increase the skills and income of individuals, youth and families moved into permanent housing.
- Help homeless individuals, youth and families achieve greater self-determination.

VI. HUD Eligible Projects:

- **Permanent Housing**
 - Permanent Supportive Housing
 - Rapid Re-Housing
- **Joint Transitional Housing/Rapid Re-Housing**
- **Supportive Services Only**
 - Coordinated Entry
 - Street Outreach
 - Standalone Supportive Services Project
- **HMIS**

VII. Eligible Service Recipients

Recipients of services provided by projects funded under this NOFO must meet the criteria of paragraph (1) of HUD's definition of homelessness, except that persons coming from transitional housing must have originally come from places not meant for human habitation, safe havens, or emergency shelters,

OR

Must meet the criteria of paragraph (4) of HUD's definition of homelessness.

Chronic homelessness is not a requirement for individuals and families served by projects funded under the Special NOFO though service recipients must be of the highest need.

COORDINATED ENTRY PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT:

The Department of Housing and Urban Development requires that every Continuum of Care develop a coordinated system of assessment and services. HUD has further required that this system prioritize clients based on information gathered during assessment and that CoC providers begin accepting ALL new clients through it. The Oklahoma City coordinated services system utilizes a prioritized, by-name list of clients to make referrals during weekly Coordinated Case Management meetings. Every CoC Permanent Supportive Housing provider must have a representative at these meetings and be receiving ALL clients through this system.

VIII. Project Submittal Information:

Oklahoma City is the collaborative applicant for the CoC application to HUD. All project applicants must submit the Local Application via email to the collaborative applicant at jerod.shadid@okc.gov and cc: lindsay.cates@okc.gov during the period **starting 10:00 a.m. August 19, 2022 and ending 5:00pm September 20, 2022**. All applicants must also complete the full CoC Project Application in eSnaps at <https://esnaps.hud.gov> by **5:00 p.m. October 13, 2022** and notify the collaborative applicant the project application has been completed. Project Applicants **SHOULD NOT** submit their application in esnaps.

Applying organizations are responsible for ensuring all applications are complete before contacting the collaborative applicant.

Please contact Jerod Shadid at jerod.shadid@okc.gov for any questions you may have regarding this solicitation.

For more information, the full text of the Federal NOFA can be found at the link below

[Continuum of Care Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness.pdf](#)

HUD's Homeless Policy and Program Priorities

The following are HUD's Homeless Policy Priorities as listed in the Special NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness. All applicants should read these priorities and carefully consider them when completing their application.

1. *Unsheltered Homelessness.* Unsheltered homelessness is continuing to rise in many areas of the country and recent analysis of homelessness data shows that people experiencing unsheltered homelessness report significantly greater health challenges and experiences of trauma and violence than their sheltered peers. These challenges often begin before they lose their housing. This NOFO supports this highly vulnerable population by supporting CoCs in their efforts to identify people living in unsheltered situations, including encampments, and connects them with health and housing resources. It also supports CoCs in their efforts to enhance their Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to collect more comprehensive data on people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in their geographic area.

2. *Unsheltered Homelessness and Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs in Rural Areas.* Rural areas often lack the resources and infrastructure for providing homeless services and permanent housing. Additionally, rural areas often require unique strategies to solve challenges specific to their geography. To support CoCs in their efforts to end unsheltered homelessness in their rural areas, this NOFO targets resources to rural areas and provides additional eligible activities to address some of the unique needs of rural areas.

3. *Providing Assistance on Tribal Lands.* Indian Reservations and Trust Lands may be all or part of a CoCs' geographic areas, and Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities are eligible recipients of CoC Program funds. This NOFO provides additional incentives for creating projects that serve individuals and families in geographic areas that have high levels of homelessness, housing distress, or poverty, and are located where CoC services have until now been entirely unavailable, such as, for example, Trust Lands and Reservations.

4. *Involving a Broad Array of Stakeholders in the CoC's Efforts to Reduce Homelessness.* Ending homelessness cannot be achieved by homeless service organizations alone. It requires coordination with a variety of other stakeholders, including affordable housing developers, mainstream service providers, the business community, victim service providers, political leaders, and healthcare providers. This NOFO supports and encourages CoCs to invite a variety of stakeholders to develop and implement a CoC Plan to Serve Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs.

5. *Advancing Equity.* In nearly every community, Black, Indigenous, and other people of color as well as individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ and individuals with disabilities are substantially overrepresented in the homeless population. HUD is emphasizing system and program changes to address equity within CoCs through identifying and addressing the needs of subpopulations who are disproportionately more likely to experience homelessness, such as the populations identified above, and other populations who are disproportionately more likely to experience homelessness. CoCs should be reviewing their strategies to support and serve underserved communities in their geographic area, identify barriers that led to any disparities in communities being served, and take steps to eliminate these barriers. This includes, in conjunction with people experiencing homelessness, reviewing local policies, procedures, and processes to determine where and how to address disparities affecting underserved communities experiencing homelessness.

6. *Use a Housing First approach.* Housing First prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have service participation requirements or preconditions. Projects funded under this NOFO should help individuals and families move quickly into permanent housing, and the CoC should measure and help projects reduce the length of time people experience

homelessness as well as ensure projects are correctly implementing a Housing First approach. Additionally, CoCs should engage landlords and property owners to identify an inventory of housing available for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing participants, remove barriers to entry, and adopt service delivery methods that respond to the preferences and needs of the individual or family presenting for assistance.

DEFINITIONS

Refer to this list for terms in this NOFA as well as both the Local Priorities and eSnaps Applications.

By-Name List: The Oklahoma City CoC has four separate by -name lists that are updated and maintained by partner agencies; these are literally names that identify people experiencing homelessness in the community by name and prioritize housing placements and case management resources based on VI-SPDAT scores. The subpopulations included in those by-name lists are as follows: Chronic, Veteran, Youth, and Family. These by-name Lists are the mechanism by which clients are moved from prescreen for vulnerability to case management and housing placement. The list is updated based on VI-SPDATs that have been inputted at any agency in the community and entered into HMIS. The list is managed based on vulnerability rather than the entry date to the coordinated entry system. VI-SPDAT scores are ranked such that clients are served in order of vulnerability. It is important to note that the family by-name list is not currently being maintained community-wide; agency participation in the family by-name list is preferred but not required. It is also important to note that apart from the family list, there is only one list per population for the entire community; individual agencies do not maintain their own priority lists or waiting lists. Prioritization for all placements through partner agencies should come from the appropriate by-name list. Since all prioritization occurs via this list it is also referred to as the 'Master List'.

Chronically Homeless (HUD Definition): To be considered chronically homeless, a person must have a disability and have been living in a place not meant for human habitation, in an emergency shelter (including hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs), or transitional housing for the last 12 months continuously or on at least four occasions in the last three years where those occasions cumulatively total at least 12 months.

CoC: The Oklahoma City Continuum of Care Committee (OKC CoC) is a committee comprised of citizens and non-profit service providers interested in working on community homeless and poverty issues. The OKC CoC Committee provides oversight in coordinating competitive and formula programs specific to serving the City's homeless population. This group also makes funding recommendations for the City's Social Services grant. The HUD Continuum of Care Grant is an annual competitive grant that builds on the previous year's performance in developing specialized housing with supports for those who are homeless, chronically homeless and have significant disabilities.

Disability (HUD Definition): A physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, or brain injury that is expected to be long-continuing or of indefinite duration, substantially impedes the individual's ability to live independently, and could be improved by the provision of more suitable housing conditions.

Fleeing domestic abuse or violence (HUD Definition Category 4): Any individual or family who:

- (i) Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence;
- (ii) Has no other residence; and
- (iii) Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

HMIS: (Homeless Management Information System) This is the database used to record and track client-level information. HMIS ties together homeless service providers within a community to help create a more coordinated and effective housing and service delivery system. The City of Oklahoma City's HMIS is staffed by a contracted administrator. The software provider is Bowman Systems, Service Point.

Housing First: This model provides housing first, and then combines that housing with supportive treatment services in the areas of mental and physical health, substance abuse, education, and employment. Housing is provided in apartments scattered throughout a community.

Journey Home OKC: This is the name of Oklahoma City's initiative that emphasizes housing homeless veterans and people experiencing chronic homelessness and provides them with wraparound case management services. Journey Home OKC is comprised of over 40 government, non-profit, and faith-based organizations that work together to end veteran and chronic homelessness. All Journey Home partner organizations house clients from the prioritized By- Name List and all CoC funded projects are required to take *all* of their clients from the list. The Journey Home initiative also emphasizes housing families and youth through the same approach.

Literally Homeless (HUD Definition Category 1): Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning: (i) Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation; (ii) Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); or (iii) Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH): PSH is a program that helps eligible people find a permanent home and also connects them to case management and other supportive services in the community. Permanent Supportive Housing is prioritized for the most vulnerable people in the community.

Rapid Re-housing (RRH): RRH is designed to help individuals and families quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent *housing*. Rapid re-housing is prioritized by medium acuity levels as determined by the VI-SPDAT. This assistance is generally shorter and less intensive than PSH.

Unaccompanied Youth: These are people under the age of 24 who present for services without an adult. This definition applies to local program planning and reporting to other funders; HUD defines youth as 18-24 and classifies 17 and below as children.

VI-SPDAT: (Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool) The prescreen triage tool our community uses to assess vulnerability in single adults. The assessment is scored, and scores are sorted into three ranges; those that are not recommended for housing intervention, those recommended for rapid rehousing intervention, and those recommended for permanent supported housing/Housing First. VI-SPDAT is used as a general term, and may be used to include the VI-FSPDAT and TAY-VI-SPDAT when talking about the assessment in general.